

# Rebuilding You Boat Trailer

By Joe Graves

Well here goes! Your trailer has served you well for years, never let you down. So now is the time to do some work on it. Number one; don't be afraid to tackle this cause if I can do it anyone can.

Steps One - make your list of stuff to buy

- A. measure your bunks for carpet
- B. measure the bunks for treated lumber (the key word is treated)
- C. If you are using Bearing Buddies skip putting new bearings and races in just check and grease. If you don't have them I strongly encourage you to put new bearings and races and install a set of Bearing Buddies. Many a vacation has been ruined due to bearing failure. They are not that expensive and roadside repair is a real pain in the arse.
- D. Measure your wiring loom if you need to replace
- E. The new style halogen lights are a little pricey but they are unbelievably bright.
- F. Check out tread on tires. If tread is wore on either inside or out there is a good chance you have a bent axle (\$147.85 been there done that)
- G. I put none-skid aluminum diamond plate on the walk areas in front and behind the fender. About \$35.00 I didn't have to but sure makes it look better and helps to keep from getting wet.
- H. I bought a roll of nonskid 3M tape for the tops of the frame up by the winch area (too many busted shins and wet feet!)

Step Two- take the boat off the trailer

- A. If you don't own a private lake or a lift truck to take the boat off the following is a SUPER easy way to do the job.
- B. Back the boat up to a tree in your yard, unhook all tie downs and the front strap
- C. Raise motor to its highest point and tip transducers up if any as well as your speedometer sensor.
- D. Tie a strong strap, ratchet type or good rope around the tree and attach to ski rings if you have any or any GOOD strong point on the rear of your boat.
- E. Get 6-8 old used car or truck tires place two down near transom of boat.
- F. Now gently pull vehicle forward placing an additional two tires midway on boat as it comes off trailer.

- G. Continue on forward until the nose starts to come off the trailer then put one or two tires under bow.
- H. Now it's off the trailer. You can cover with road cover or tarp.

### Step-Three

- A. Disassemble pads, save carpet for a template, save boards to drill mounting holes in new lumber.
- B. Take lights off leave wiring loom alone even if bad.
- C. At this point you need to decide if you want to repaint the trailer or not. If you decide to paint use a cordless drill and rough up the surface. Primer with two coats of GOOD primer then use whatever paint you want for the top coat. You will laugh but I used a Wagner power sprayer and it worked very well.
- D. When you recover the bunks you glue them down first then you can use a staple gun with long staples and USE PLENTY. There is probably a better way to do this but this is cheap and quick.
- E. As you reassemble everything use heavy grease on your rollers if you have any.
- F. If you are going to replace the wiring do it after everything else is done attach the new wire to the old wire at back of boat pulling it thru slowly.

### Step Four- Putting boat back on trailer

- A. This is the easiest part don't panic
- B. First get a bar of the cheapest soap you can find and a bottle of water with a pump on it. Spray the bunks down good with water then rub soap over pads don't spare the soap or water.
- C. Put the center of the trailer under the bow of your boat by hand. Unhook the strap from the boat and tree. Stretch out your winch strap all the way to the bow eye hook & it up .Now crank by hand slowly until the trailer starts to nose up in the air. As you continue to crank the boat will lift in to the air on to the trailer eventually it will reach a balance point where you can easily handle the boat and trailer by yourself AT THIS POINT slowly pull trailer down to the ground and crank a little further and ZAPP you are done!

Cranking this up by hand is not as hard as one might think. When I was done doing this by myself, I was convinced I would never take my boat out of the lake again without a safety strap on the bow! It went back on SOOOO easy I am sure wet, it would come off even easier!

Hope this helps you do something that will save you some money and gives the old barge a new outlook on life. My redo cost me about \$160.00 total on my Stratos-trail. Which is a long way from a new shiny one!

Best of luck